



NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

A+ Schools Facts and Goals

What is the long-range goal of the Dakota A+ Schools Network?

A voluntary school reform program to be known as the Dakota A+ Schools Program. Achievement of this goal will involve a multi-step process of development the following areas:

1. Awareness/Education/Advocacy
 - Arts events and programs
 - Website links and email
 - Brochures and mailings
 - State-wide conferences and meetings
 - Higher education
 - Department of Public Instruction
 - Legislature
2. Resources and Partnerships
 - Local/state arts organizations
 - School districts
 - State and local corporations and foundations
 - Community partnerships
 - Parent groups
 - Higher education
 - State agencies
 - Growth and Sustainability
 - Establish model schools that include urban, rural and tribal school districts
 - Expand the network on an ongoing basis
 - Schools commit to 2-3 master teachers
 - Leadership network for principals and master teachers
 - Professional development training
3. Evidence/Accountability/Key Findings
 - Ongoing data collection to identify effects of A+ program
 - Build on assessment research completed by North Carolina
 - Engage expertise of higher education
 - Train graduate students to conduct research
4. Administration
 - Maintain model schools and master teachers as network core
 - Establish an entity to manage the Dakota A+ Schools Network

The following is a brief list of results of a four-year study of the North Carolina A+ Schools Program conducted by the Kenan Institute for the Arts:

How do students benefit from the A+ Schools Program?

- Increased equity in access to the curriculum.
- Enriched academic environment.
- Improved attitudes, attendance, and behavior.
- Assessment results.

How do teachers benefit from the A+ Schools Program?

- Instructional change for enhanced learning opportunities.
- Richer, more educationally substantive assessment.
- Collaborative work and new leadership roles.

What are the community benefits?

- Greater parent affiliation with school.
- Increased parent participation and awareness of curriculum.
- New partnerships.